

Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.116
Attorney Docket No. 010849
Serial No. 09/898,043

REMARKS

Claims 25-28 and 30-37 are pending in the application, and are rejected. Claims 25, 27, 28 and 30-37 are rejected. Claim 25 is amended and claim 26 is canceled herein.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

Claims 25, 27-34 and 36-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Nagahama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,172,382 B1).

Applicants herein import the limitations from claim 26 to claim 25, and subsequently cancel claim 26. Thereafter, Applicants submit that claim 25 should be allowable.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP


Kenneth H. Salen
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 43,077
Tel: 202-822-1100
Fax: 202-822-1111

KHS/led